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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/822,274	04/02/2001	Masaki Ichihara	040447/0231	8800
22428	7590	09/02/2004	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			CHAMPAGNE, DONALD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3622	

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/822,274

Applicant(s)

ICHIHARA, MASAKI

Examiner

Donald L. Champagne

Art Unit

3622

NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5-3-02, 7-10-03 & 12-31-03
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-19, 22-27, 29-38 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goldhaber et al.
4. Goldhaber et al. teaches (independent claims 1 and 25) a rewarding method and a server, the method comprising: (a) designating a predetermined object (*Cybercoins 62*, col. 16 line 61 and Fig. 11) to each of a plurality of advertising web pages (col. 7 lines 27-29 and 48-50 and col. 8 lines 50-51) having respective URLs; (b) causing a *server 106* (col. 16 lines 42-46) to detect that a user of a user terminal unit (*consumer computer 104*) has selected the object on one of a plurality of the advertising web pages; causing a transfer of cash or credit to the user's account (col. 7 lines 51-54; col. 16 lines 46-52; col. 16 line 65 to col. 17 line 3; and col. 17 lines 33-36 and 44-53), which reads (c) on recording an event log correlating an identifier of the user, an identifier of the selected object, and an event that the object has been selected, (d) determining whether or not the number of objects recorded in the event log exceeds a first predetermined value equal to one, and (e) rewarding the user when the determined result at step (d) is "yes".
5. Goldhaber et al. also teaches at the citations given above claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-18, 22-24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32-37 and 41. Goldhaber et al. also teaches claims 19 and 38 (col. 9 lines 62-63).

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6. Claims 4, 7, 11, 20-21, 28 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Goldhaber et al.
7. Goldhaber et al. does not teach (claims 4, 11 and 28) a banner ad and rewarding by discounting an Internet connection fee. Official notice is taken (MPEP § 2144.03) that banner ads and rewarding by discounting an Internet connection fee were well known at the time of the instant invention. Because it is efficient to use common practices, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add these features to the teachings of Goldhaber et al.
8. Goldhaber et al. does not teach (claims 7, 20-21 and 39-40) storing the user ID and the event log on the user terminal unit. Because this could minimize response time and server storage requirements, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add storing the user ID and the event log on the user terminal unit to the teachings of Goldhaber et al.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Champagne whose telephone number is 703-308-3331. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 5 PM ET, Monday to Thursday. The examiner can also be contacted by e-mail at donald.champagne@uspto.gov, and *informal* fax communications (i.e., communications not to be made of record) may be sent directly to the examiner at 703-746-5536.
10. The examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, can be reached on 703-305-8469. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.
11. **ABANDONMENT** – If examiner cannot by telephone verify applicant's intent to continue prosecution, the application is subject to abandonment six months after mailing of the last Office action. The agent, attorney or applicant point of contact is responsible for assuring that the Office has their telephone number. Agents and attorneys may verify their registration information including telephone number at the Office's web site, www.uspto.gov.

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At the top of the home page, click on Site Index. Then click on Agent & Attorney Roster in the alphabetic list, and search for your registration by your name or number.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Champagne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.

Donald L. Champagne
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3622

31 August 2004